

**Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing – February 28, 2011
Testimony by
Chief Daryl Roberts
Police Chief – Hartford, CT**

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Chief Daryl Roberts. I am sorry that I could not be here this evening to voice my support of Charter Oak State College.

There's no way I could have reached Police Chief without an education. It's important to me. I could have continued in this profession without a degree – but in order for me to advance to the management level, you have to be educated. And Charter Oak enabled me to do that and continue to work. Without my degree from Charter Oak I don't think I would be the Chief of Police because right now it's just so competitive and you have to have an advanced degree -- there's no question about it. I have a department of over 500 employees, including civilian staff, and a city that I have to protect and serve of about 125,000 at night and over 200,000 during the day time. So, you have to have the skills to do that, and Charter Oak afforded me that opportunity.

I think, in order to be a great leader, you have to lead by example. And if you're encouraging your officers to better themselves by education and you don't do it, then it means nothing. You have to develop yourself as a leader and people will follow you because they like the places you're leading them. So, if you're going back to school, I would encourage people to consider Charter Oak State College. It's worked, it's proven, and it's a great, great tool – a great educational system. If anyone has a busy schedule, home, family, working another career – some people work full and part time jobs, it's important to understand that this is something that everyone can take full advantage of. Charter Oak State College is a great school.